

S-305
St. Paul's A.M.E. Church
Crisfield
public worship

1906

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the southwest corner of Broadway and 4th Street, one block south of Main Street in the center of uptown Crisfield. Built in 1906, the seven-course common bond brick church follows a tee-plan and is covered by a steeply pitched patterned slate roof. A three-story tower rises in the northeast corner of the plan and contains the two Gothic-arched entrances at the top of a five-step flight of stairs. The bell tower has been removed, but the bell was preserved and placed in front of the church. The maker's inscription reads,

"Buckeye Bell Foundry, 1892, Vanduzen and Tift, Cincinnati, Presented by the Cheerful Workers, April 1, 1892."

The bell was salvaged from the former church that stood on this site. The marble cornerstone, located in the northeast corner, states the first church was erected in 1886, burned on May 20, 1906 and was rebuilt the same year.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. S-305

Magi No. 2003055708

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Paul's A.M.E. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number S.W. Corner of Broadway and 4th Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of St. Paul's A.M.E. Church

street & number Broadway and 4th Street telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code MD 21817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-305

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the southwest corner of Broadway and 4th Street, one block south of Main Street in downtown Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The tee-shaped Gothic Revival church has two principal entrances, one facing north and the other facing east.

Built in 1906, the seven-course common bond brick church is covered by a steeply pitched patterned slate roof with extended eaves and exposed rafter feet. A three-story tower rises in the northeast corner of the ell and contains the two entrances at the top of a five-step flight of stairs. The north and east faces of the tower are essentially alike with a Gothic arched double door entrance. The top part of the arch is filled with a three-pane colored glass transom. Highlighting the opening is a brick keystone arch. The second floor of the tower is marked by a small lancet single-pane sash window also topped by a brick keystone arch. The bell tower has been reduced in height with only the bottom half left intact. The bell-curved sides are covered with patterned slate, and have small pointed arches which interrupt the base of the tower roof. The bell has been taken down and placed in front of the church. The maker's inscription reads, "Buckeye Bell Foundry, 1892, Vanduzen and Tift-Cincinnati, Presented by the Cheerful Workers, April 1, 1892." The bell was evidently salvaged from the former church that stood on this site. The marble cornerstone, located in the north-east corner of the north leg, states the first church was erected in 1886, burned on May 20, 1906, and was rebuilt in 1906.

The north and east gable-front facades of the church are almost identical with a Gothic arched tri-partite colored glass window that is flanked by Gothic arched lancet windows. The upper gable is marked by a vent, comprised of a pattern of bricks left out of the masonry wall. A corbelled cap stove stack with Gothic arched flue cover rises from each side.

The south gabled elevation is pierced by the same set of Gothic arched windows, and a shed roof covers the side entrance. Square porch posts are embellished with c-curve brackets. The door has a Gothic arch as well.

The west or rear elevation is different from the rest with a projecting gable roofed apse flanked by shed roofed sections to each side. The west wall of the apse is pierced by a round window, while the north shed roofed section is marked on the north and west sides by Gothic arched lancet windows. The north window has a keystone embedded in the arch, but the west arch does not. The old marble datestone, evidently salvaged from the original church, was set in the foundation wall of this rear section. It reads, A.M.E. Church, 1886. The flanking shed roofed section to the south extends out farther than the apse wall surface, and it has a brick stove stack that protrudes from the northwest corner.

The interior of the church was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-305

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates: 1906 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

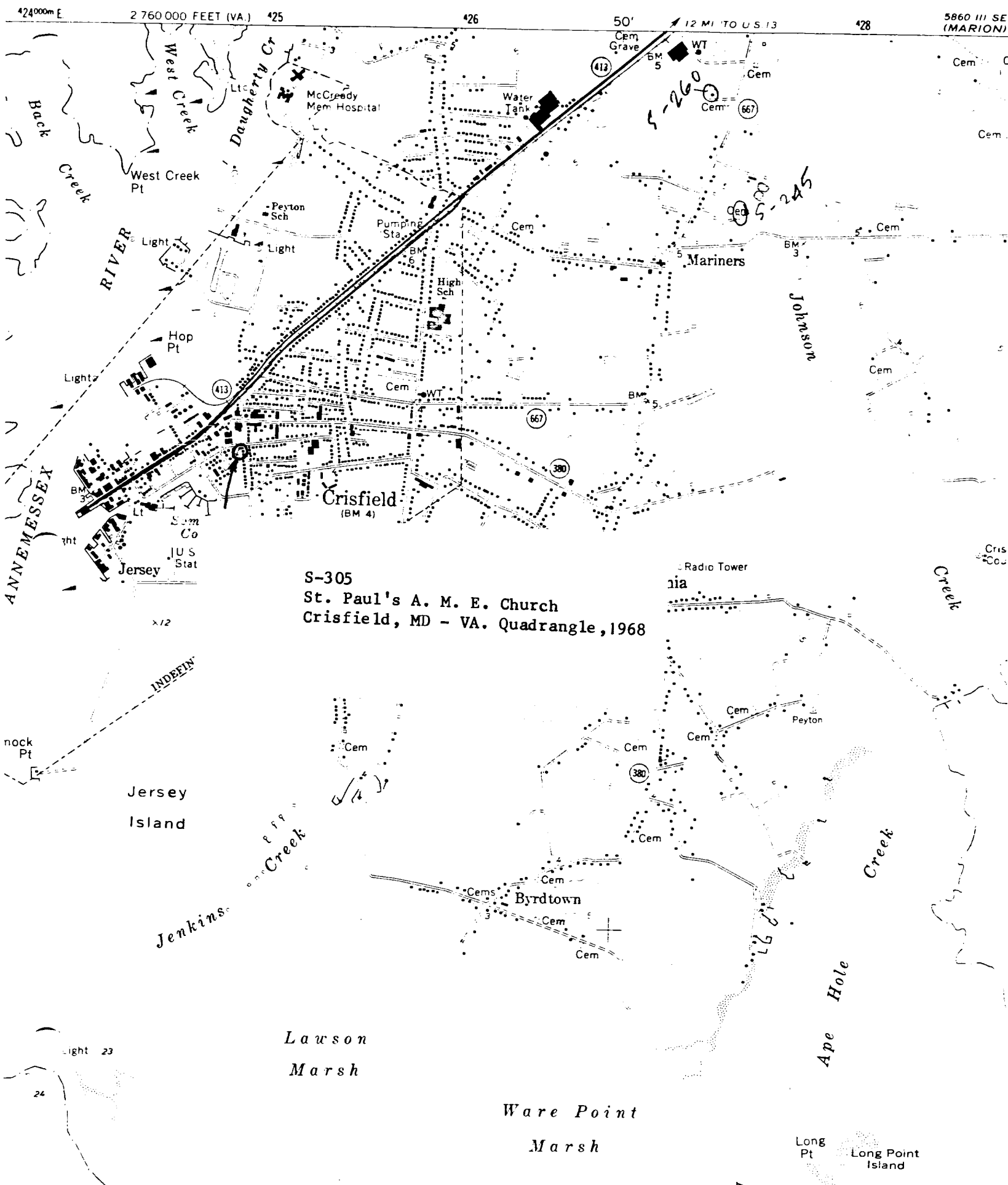
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The St. Paul's A.M.E. Church is a significant Gothic Revival tee-plan structure erected by Crisfield's black Methodist congregation in 1906. The former church, built in 1886, was destroyed by fire. Aside from a capping of the bell tower, the period exterior features have remained largely intact. The Gothic Revival style with a tee-shaped plan and a three-story bell tower are common features for black Methodist churches in southern Somerset County, however the use of brick is very rare.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





St. ^{PAUL'S}~~DECEASED~~ M.E. Church
Crisfield, Somerset County
Northeast Elevation
7/85 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Maryland Historical Trust

305
S-~~288~~



Paul's
St. ~~Peter's~~ M.E. Church
Crisfield, Somerset County
Northwest Elevation
7/85 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Maryland Historical Trust

305
S-~~205~~